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# WHAT IS ISLAM

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**In the Name of Allâh,  
the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful**

"And I (Allâh) created not the jinn and mankind except that they should worship Me (Alone). I seek not any provision from them (i.e. provision for themselves or for My creatures) nor do I ask that they should feed Me (i.e. feed themselves or My creatures). Verily, Allâh is the All-Provider, Owner of Power, the Most Strong. And verily, for those who do wrong, there is a portion of torment like the evil portion of torment (which came for) their likes (of old); so let them not ask Me to hasten on! Then woe to those who disbelieve (in Allâh and His Oneness – Islamic Monotheism) from their Day which they have been promised (for their punishment)."<sup>[1]</sup>

(Sûrah Adh-Dhâriyât, 51: 56-60)

<sup>[1]</sup> Narrated Anas ؓ: The Prophet ﷺ said, "Allâh will say to the person of the (Hell) Fire who will receive the least punishment, 'If you had everything on the earth, would you give it as a ransom to free yourself (i.e., save yourself from this Fire)?' He will say, 'Yes.' Then Allâh will say, 'While you were in the backbone of Adam, I asked you much less than this, (i.e., not to worship others besides Me), but you insisted on worshipping others besides Me.'" (Shaih Al-Bukhari, Hadith No. 3334)

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## A Note from the Publisher

This religion – Islam is a heavenly system (or regime) for all the dwellers of the earth, and it is a mighty treasure if only mankind realizes its authenticity and truth. And in what a great need the whole world is today for real understanding and thorough studying of its rules and regulations – i.e., the Noble Qur'ân and the pious *Sunnah* (legal ways, etc.) of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, as these (the Qur'ân and *As-Sunnah*) accede to the demand of the people to know their Creator (the Almighty Allâh, the Blessed, the Most High), organize and regulate the relations between them on the foundations of (Godly) Divine Justice and equality and respond to the human nature equally to that which makes sure for them their welfare (happiness) in this world and in the Hereafter (after their deaths).

And how many disasters, calamities and wars, the mankind of the whole world is suffering because of their differences in their faith, and organizations, which have broken them into the worst type of breaking, so there remains no way out for any security or any safety or any peace except with Islam, i.e., by putting in practice the Laws of their Creator, Allâh, (i.e., the Qur'ân and *As-Sunnah*).

Invitation to this religion – Islam is incumbent upon all those who have known it, and have enjoyed its taste and have been guided through its guidance. In fact it is a great responsibility and a trust (of Allâh) over (the shoulders of) all those who know Islam, to preach it to mankind and invite them to it in a language which they speak and understand.



## Introduction

### Allâh's Statement

(The Noble Qur'ân, Verses 3: 19, 20 –  
translated by Al-Hilali and Khan)

"Truly, the religion with Allâh is Islam. Those who were given the Scripture (Jews and Christians) did not differ except out of mutual jealousy, after knowledge had come to them. And whoever disbelieves in the *Ayât* (proofs, evidences, verses, signs, revelations, etc.) of Allâh, then surely Allâh is Swift in calling to account. So, if they dispute with you (Muhammad ﷺ), say: 'I have submitted myself to Allâh (in Islam), and (so have) those who follow me.' And say to those who were given the Scripture (Jews and Christians) and to those who are illiterates (Arab pagans): 'Do you (also) submit yourselves (to Allâh in Islam)?' If they do, they are rightly guided; but if they turn away, your duty is only to convey the Message; and Allâh is All-Seer of (His) slaves."



## Who is Allâh?



Allâh, is the proper name applied to the True God, Who exists Alone, and includes all His Excellent Divine Names and Perfect Attributes. Allâh ﷻ is One and Unique. He has no son, partner or equal. As Allâh says in the Noble Qur'ân:

"And they attribute falsely without knowledge sons and daughters to Him. He is Glorified and Exalted above all that (evil) they attribute to Him. He is the Originator of the heavens and the earth. How can He have children when He has no wife? He created all things and He is the All-Knower of everything.<sup>[1]</sup> Such is Allâh, your Lord! *Lâ ilâha illa Huwa*

<sup>[1]</sup> Narrated Ibn 'Abbâs رضي الله عنهما: The Prophet ﷺ said that Allâh said, "The son of Adam tells lies against Me though he has no right to do so, and he abuses Me though he has no right to do so. As for his telling lies against Me, he claims that I cannot re-create him as I created him before; and as for his abusing Me: it is his statement that I have a son (or offspring). No! Glorified I am! I am far from taking a wife or a son (or offspring)." (*Sahih Al-Bukhâri, Hadith No. 4482*)



(none has the right to be worshipped but He), the Creator of all things. So worship Him (Alone), and He is the *Wakîl* (Trustee, Disposer of affairs or Guardian) over all things. No vision can grasp Him, but He grasps all vision. He is *Al-Latîf* (the Most Subtle and Courteous), the Well-Acquainted (with all things).” (V. 6:100-103)

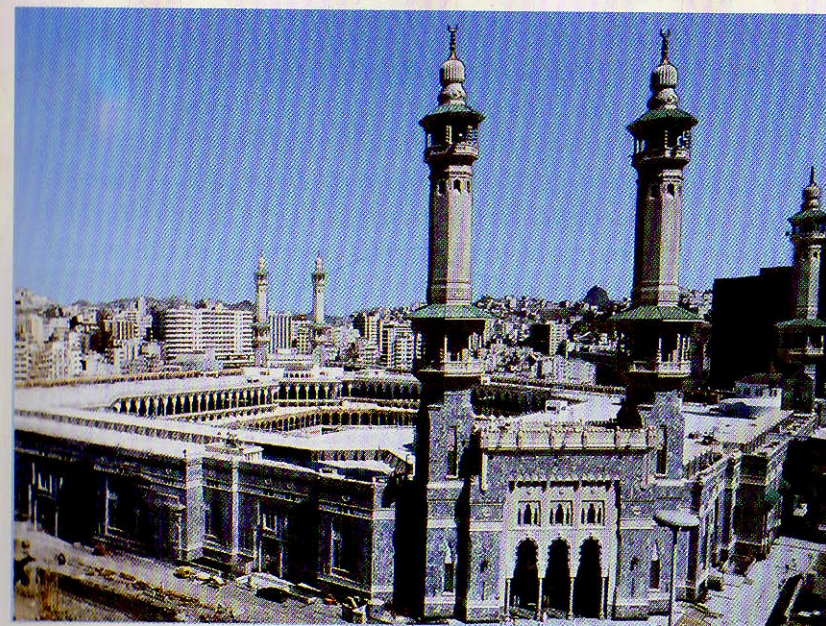
He is the Sole Creator and Sustainer of the universe. Every creature bears witness to His Oneness, Divinity and Lordship *Rubûbiyah*<sup>[1]</sup> as well as to the uniqueness of His Attributes and Names. His Essence does not resemble any other essence. There is none like Him. He is the One. He is the Lord without Whom no affairs are accomplished, and to Whom Lordship ultimately belongs. He neither begets nor is begotten. He is not inherent in anything, nor is anything inherent in Him. All creatures stand in need of Him, yet He stands in need of none. Allâh ﷻ is the Omnipotent and the Omniscient, the One Whose knowledge comprehends in the most perfect manner, all things, hidden or manifest. But He is the Most Great.

Allâh ﷻ, the Supreme, is the Lord of everything, Who disposes all affairs. He is the Most Merciful; One Whose mercy is boundless and encompasses everything. He is far removed from injustice and tyranny. His justice ensures order in the universe where nothing is out of order. There is no one to share His dominion, nor does He take a helper or supporter from His creatures. He is the Lord of the ‘*Alamîn* (mankind, jinn and all that exists).

He is above the seven heavens, and rose over His Throne in the manner that suits His Majesty. As Allâh says in the Noble Qur’ân:

“The Most Gracious (Allâh) rose over (*Istawâ*) the (Mighty) Throne (in a manner that suits His Majesty). To

<sup>[1]</sup> *Rubûbiyah*: Lordship is *Rubûbiyah* in Arabic. It derives from *Rabb*. There is no proper equivalent for *Rabb* in the English language. It means the One and the Only Lord for all the universe, its Creator, Owner, Organizer, Provider, Master, Planner, Sustainer, Cherisher, and Giver of security. *Rabb* is also one of the Names of Allâh.



Him belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is on the earth, and all that is between them, and all that is under the soil. And if you (O Muhammad ﷺ) speak (the invocation) aloud, then verily, He knows the secret and that which is yet more hidden. Allâh! *Lâ ilâha illa Huwa* (none has the right to be worshipped but He)! To Him belong the Best Names.” (V. 20: 5-8)

“They made not a just estimate of Allâh such as is due to Him. And on the Day of Resurrection the whole of the earth will be grasped by His Hand<sup>[1]</sup> and the heavens will be rolled up in His Right Hand. Glorified is He, and High is He above all that they associate as partners with Him!” (V. 39:67)

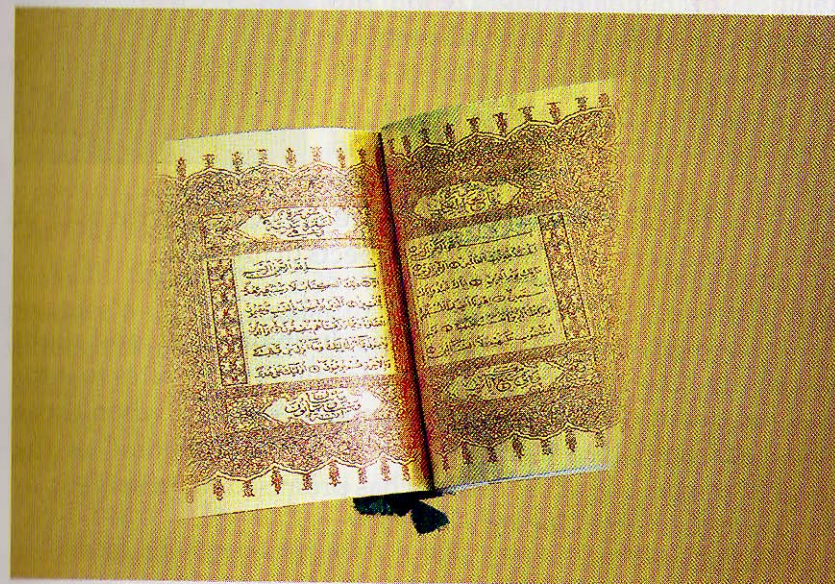
<sup>[1]</sup> Narrated Abû Hurairah ؓ: I heard Allâh's Messenger ﷺ saying, “(On the Day of Resurrection) Allâh will grasp the whole planet of earth (by His Hand), and roll all the heavens up with His Right Hand, and then He will say, 'I am the King; where are the kings of the earth?'” (*Sahih Al-Bukhari, Hadith No. 4812*)



"Allâh! *Lâ ilâha illa Huwa* (none has the right to be worshipped but He), *Al-Hayyul-Qayyum* (the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists). Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except with His Permission? He knows what happens to them (His creatures) in this world, and what will happen to them in the Hereafter. And they will never encompass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His *Kursî* extends over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great. [This Verse 2:255, is called *Ayat-ul-Kursî*.]

"And He is Allâh: *Lâ ilâha illa Huwa* (none has the right to be worshipped but He), His are all praise and thanks (both) in the first (i.e. in this world) and in the last (i.e. in the Hereafter). And for Him is the Decision, and to Him shall you (all) be returned. Say (O Muhammad ﷺ): 'Tell me! If Allâh made the night continuous for you till the Day of Resurrection, which *ilâh* (a god) besides Allâh could bring you light? Will you not then hear?' Say (O Muhammad ﷺ): 'Tell me! If Allâh made the day continuous for you till the Day of Resurrection, which *ilâh* (a god) besides Allâh could bring you night wherein you rest? Will you not then see?' It is out of His Mercy that He has made for you the night and the day that you may rest therein (i.e. during the night) and that you may seek of His Bounty (i.e. during the day) and in order that you may be grateful. And (remember) the Day when He (your Lord – Allâh) will call to them (those who worshipped others along with Allâh), and will say: 'Where are My (so-called) partners, whom you used to assert?' And We shall take out from every nation a witness, and We shall say: 'Bring your proof.' Then they shall know that the truth is with Allâh (Alone), and the lies (false gods) which they invented will disappear from them." (28: 70-75)

## What is the Noble Qur'ân?



The 'Qur'ân' is the Speech of Allâh ﷻ. It is not a creation. It was delivered by the angel Gabriel to Muhammad ﷺ, who would memorize the Verses he received, recite them to the Companions who happened to be with him and order them to write them down immediately. Muhammad ﷺ used to keep a copy of the revealed portions in his house. It is the last of Allâh's Books, which was revealed in installments over a period of twenty-three years. It is divided into 114 *Surah* (Chapters) of unequal length. It is one of the fundamental sources of Islamic teachings. Some of its Chapters and Verses were revealed in Makkah, and the rest were revealed in Al-Madinah. The